

#7
3-19-03
J

RECEIVED
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3500
03 MAR 14 11:11:31

)
)
) Group Art Unit: 3673
) Examiner: J. Kreck
) Confirmation No.: 2190
)
)
)
)

(12/02)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
James, et al.) Group Art Unit: 3673
Application No.: 09/964,930) Examiner: J. Kreck
Filed: September 26, 2001) Confirmation No.: 2190
For: BENTONITE NODULES)
)
)
)
)

RECEIVED
TECHNICAL CENTER 3600
03 MAR 14 AM 11:31

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

U.S. Patents

1.	2,609,880	Dyer	9/9/1952
2.	4,886,550	Alexander	12/12/1989
3.	4,936,386	Colangelo	6/26/1990
4.	5,195,583	Toom et al.	2/23/1993
5.	5,611,400	James et al.	3/18/1997
6.	5,657,822	James et al.	8/19/1997
7.	5,810,085	James et al.	9/22/1998

Non-Patent References

8. Bourgoyne, A., et al., "Sustained Casing Pressure in Offshore Producing Wells", *OTC 11029*, pp. 1-13, (5/1999).
9. Chevron Environmental Management Co., "Coalinga Abandonment Pilot: Technical Report on the Utilization of Sodium Bentonite in the Abandonment of Oil Fields" (7/2000).

10. Daemen, J., et al., "Bentonite as a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Shaft Sealing Material", *Contractor Report SAND 96-1968* Unlimited Release UC-721, (12/1996).
11. Daemen, J., Letter to M. James re: Plugging Depleted Oil Wells, (3/22/1998).
12. DeGroot, D., "Comments on Petro-Plug's Proposed Procedure for Sealing Abandoned Oil Wells", *Report Prepared for M. James, UMASS at Amhers*, (3/14/1998).
13. DeGroot, D., et al., "Evaluation of Dispersion Characteristics of Bentonite with Application to Design of Containment Transport Barriers", *4th International Symposium on Envir. Geotech. Global Sustainable Dev.*, Boston Mass (8.1998).
14. Ehlers, "Report of Pressure Tests, Plugging Simulations", *Accord Technologies*, pp. 1-10, (3/1999).
15. Ehlers, "Report of Well Test", *Accord Group, Inc.*, (10/27/1997).
16. Ehlers, GC, for the Accord Group Inc., Technical Note, (10/29/1997).
17. Goodwin, et al., "Cement Sheath Stress Failure", *SPE Publication No. 20453*, Halliburton Services (1990).
18. James, M., "Using Coarse Ground Bentonite to Plug Abandoned Holes", *WWJ*, (6/1996).
19. Kenney, et al., "Hydraulic Conductivity of Compacted Bentonite-Sand Mixtures", *Canadian Geotech. J.*, Vol. 29, No. 3, (6/1992).
20. Lamborn, D., Letter to Gordon Fassett at the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Co. Re: Cancellation of Permit UW43569 (1/23/1997)
21. Odell, R., Letter to J. James Re: In Situ Uranium Drill Holes, (8/22/1999).
22. Ogden & Ruff, "Report-Axial Shear Strength Testing of Bentonite Water Well Annulus Seals", *Colo. State Univ. Dept of Civ. Eng.*, (Fall 1989).
23. Petro-Plug: Wellborne Plug Stage Pressure Analysis Project 2 pages (no date).
24. RMOTC, "Bentonite Well Plugging Technique", *Field Applications*, (2/1998).
25. Ruhl & Daniel, "Geosynthetic Clay Liners Permeated with Chemical Solutions and Leachates", *J. of Geotech. & Geoenv. Eng.*, pp. 369-381, (4/1997).
26. Sessions, LA, "Plugging of C-1 & C-2 Monitor Wells-I Area", *Memorandum to GA Johnson*, (1/14/1997).

27. Thornhill, J., Results of USEPA's Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center's Integrity Testing Facility Near Ada, Oklahoma, Letter and Report to M. James, pp. 44-47, (1/2000).
28. Towler & Ehlers, "Friction Factors for Hydrated Bentonite Plugs", *SPE Publication No. 38347*, pp. 111-116, (5/1997).
29. Turner, C., "Letter of Support", to Maurice Turner, pp. 1-11, (1/8/1998).
30. Tyler, "Petro-Plugging Project Test Results", *RMOTC*, (1/5/1998).
31. Wheaton, et al., "Experiments in Subsurface Applications of Bentonite in Montana", *Montana Bureau of Mines Report: Memoir No. 66*, (1994).

The documents being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since the documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) no fee or statement is required.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may contain "material" information pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" to the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced application unless specifically designated as such.

Applicants specifically reserve the right, where appropriate, to antedate any such reference by the appropriate showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and § 1.608, or any other appropriate means.

To assist the Examiner, the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

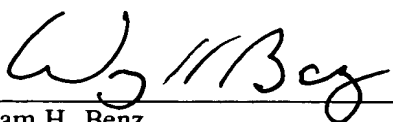
Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date:

3/13/03

By:



William H. Benz
Registration No. 25,952

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(650) 622-2300